

Third Edition

**H.R. 5034 -- QUALITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND
RETENTION ACT OF 2000**

Cost to the Taxpayer: Authorization: Such sums for FY 2001 and each of the four succeeding fiscal years. CBO estimates cost would be \$625 million over the five-year authorization, however, expenditures would only occur in the last two years, so the \$624 million actually represents a two-year cost..

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: YES. HR 5034 creates a new discretionary teacher loan forgiveness program run by the Department of Education. In 1998, Congress passed and the president signed into law the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. These amendments included a teacher loan forgiveness program for qualified teachers who commit to teaching in a low-income school for five years. This legislation would keep existing low income focus of the loan forgiveness program created in 1998; eligible teachers still must serve in a Title I school with more than 30% of students at or below poverty level. In addition, it would phase in loan forgiveness over a period of 3 years and increase total loan forgiveness to a maximum of \$20,000 per student (current program is \$5,000). Moreover, all special education teachers who meet teaching criteria are eligible, regardless of where they teach. The bill also incorporates some requirements from Teacher Empowerment Act relating to teaching in area of licensure and meeting quality standards. Since the program is discretionary, it is dependent on appropriations and eligible teachers will receive loan forgiveness on first-come, first-serve basis. All new teachers on or after August 1, 2001, will be eligible for loan forgiveness.

Constitutional Authority: No Committee report was filed, and no authority is cited in the bill.

Areas of Concern: Rather than block-granting federal education funds to states and local school districts, this bill proposes a new single-use federal program. Republicans have argued that federal education dollars should be returned to local jurisdictions through block-grants so that local educators can use the funds to meet the most pressing needs in their school, whether they be additional teachers, new computers, new textbooks, or other needs. Furthermore, for schools who do face a teacher shortage, this program only provides one option for recruiting new teachers. Some schools might want to use available funds to increase pay for all teachers, hire non-traditional teachers who may not have student loans, or undertake other efforts.

Talking Points in favor of the bill from Mr. Graham's office will be e-mailed under separate cover.

H.R. 4613 — NATIONAL HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

Cost to Taxpayers: No C.B.O. estimate is available, but the bill authorizes "such sums as may be necessary."

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: Yes, the bill amends the National Historic Preservation Act to create a national historic light station program. The federal government will convey or sell the lighthouses to eligible entities, though the government will reserve the right to use and upgrade the navigation equipment. The Secretary will take applications from eligible entities such as federal agencies or departments, local governments, educational agencies, or community development organizations to whom the federal government could transfer ownership of the lighthouse, without compensation. If no suitable entity is found, the lighthouse may be put up for sale. The Secretary of the Interior will monitor the use of the lighthouse and any changes to the lighthouse must be approved by the Secretary. Net sale proceeds shall be transferred to the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program in the Department of the Interior or if the lighthouse was under Coast Guard control, to the Coast Guard operating expenses.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report and therefore citation of Constitutional authority is not available.

The views expressed in this Legislative Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of all Members of the Conservative Action Team.

The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of almost 60 House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).